

December 13, 2006

His Excellency Alhaji A.D. Bafarawa  
The Executive Governor of Sokoto State  
Federal Republic of Nigeria

Your Excellency:

Thank you for receiving us today. Members of the Embassy of the United States of America have traveled to Sokoto State to meet you and to brief you on our activities during this trip. We also want to inform you about other issues of mutual concern.

They are:

### **American Corner – University of Sokoto**

We are delivering the contents of an American Corner library that will be established at University of Sokoto. The Memorandum of Understanding was signed on October 13, 2005.

The contents of the American Corner will include reference books and multimedia –videos and CDROMS - about the United States,

- book on how to study in the U.S., books on grant writing,
- books on HIVAIDS,
- award winning American fiction,
- almost 100 books for secondary and primary school children,
- a database on a computer server that includes hundreds of thousands of educational documents,
- two new computers,
- a LaserJet printer, one television,
- a DVD player, and posters of life in America.

Hundreds of more books will arrive later this spring thanks to a grant from the MacArthur Foundation to ship books from the U.S. to American Corners in Nigeria. These books will include both academic and children's books.

In addition to the library, the American Corner will serve as a venue for programming of Embassy officers and American and Nigerian citizens to speak on cultural and issues of mutual interest.

We routinely organize such programs at American Corners in Jos, Kano, Kaduna, Bauchi, Ibadan, Calabar, and Enugu. These programs will help strengthen the ties between the U.S. Embassy, the American people, and the people of Sokoto State.

We would like to set a date to commission the American Corner sometime in early February.

Ambassador John Campbell will invite you to join him to commission the American Corner.

At the same time he would like to donate a set of children's books –the same books in the American Corner - to the model school he visited in October 2005.

Symposium on Preserving Nigeria's Scholarly and Literary Traditions and Manuscript Heritage to be held in Kaduna Nigeria March 7 –9, 2007.

The U.S. Embassy is working closely with the Arewa House to organize a Symposium on Preserving Nigeria's Scholarly and Literary Traditions and Manuscript Heritage to be held in Kaduna Nigeria March 7 –9, 2007.

The symposium is a result of Ambassador Campbell's trip to Sokoto in October 2005 when he visited the Waziri Junaidu History and Culture Bureau.

In recognition of the importance of Sokoto's role in the intellectual history of northern Nigeria, and more broadly focused, the Islamic history of West Africa, Ambassador Campbell requested that we explore what could be done to help preserve Islamic manuscripts and other historical documents. The symposium will be the first step.

It is expected that the conference will provide an excellent platform to facilitate 'awareness raising' of the great significance of collecting, systematically organizing, and preserving Nigeria's priceless, rare, and valuable literary heritage.

It will also introduce professionals from the Nigerian library and cultural heritage sector to digital preservation issues and digital technologies as a preservation management strategy.

Most importantly, the organizing committee intends the conference to serve as a planning session to discuss and to coordinate visible preservation project activities and strategic plans.

It is expected that the Conference will bring together administrators and practitioners from the library, archive, museum, and cultural heritage sectors, local scholars, policymakers, notables and officials from the community to address some of the issues related to the preservation and accessibility of the immensely rich corpus of historical Islamic manuscripts to be found in public and private collections in the northern region of Nigeria.

Importantly, a representative from the Library of Congress will attend the conference to explore the possibility of involving the Library in a digitization program to digitize the most important Islamic manuscripts in Nigeria, especially those from the Sokoto caliphate period.

Your role as Governor of Sokoto State and the contributions of the Sultan to the success of this project is critical.

To this end we request your support and the support of the Sultan to ensure that the owners of manuscripts in both public and private collections are ably represented.

### **University of Sokoto Lectures**

During this visit we will visit the University. We will pay a courtesy call on the Deputy Vice Chancellor.

Embassy Political Officer Learned Dees will address political science students and faculty on Trends in Democracy in Africa and Political Officer Rabia Qureshi will meet with the faculty and students of the Islamic Studies Department.

### **Royal Comprehensive Secondary School**

The school is recipient of a grant from the Ambassador John Campbell's Self Help Program. The grant helped to buy lab equipment for the school.

We will visit the school to see how they are doing.

We will also meet with U.S. Embassy grantees –those who have visited the U.S. on Fulbright scholarships and International Visitor programs.

Sincerely,

Atim George  
Counselor for Public Affairs  
Public Affairs Section  
Embassy of the United States of America